

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 527

By Sparks

A RESOLUTION to commend Dan Whittle for his astute service to the people of Tennessee as a journalist and humanitarian.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should specially recognize those gifted professionals who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Dan Whittle, world-traveled newspaperman, published author, public speaker, and co-host on WGNS Radio's *Truman Jones Show* in Murfreesboro, is one such praiseworthy citizen who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, a media professional for more than fifty years, Dan Whittle is a popular speaker who champions the First Amendment when he speaks to university and school journalism classes; and

WHEREAS, as a war correspondent in Europe, Mr. Whittle was the first Tennessee journalist in history to accompany the Tennessee Air National Guard into an active war zone; and

WHEREAS, after moving to Rutherford County in 1988, Mr. Whittle began a successful newspaper campaign to establish a permanent site for Room in the Inn in Murfreesboro, which now provides temporary shelter, medical care, and food to hundreds of homeless people and families; and

WHEREAS, he was also instrumental in the media crusade that eventually returned Smyrna Airport to local governmental jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, a founding member of the Tennessee Journalism Hall of Fame, Mr. Whittle is a columnist for the *Cannon Courier* and has written two books: *Canalou: People, Culture, Bootheel Town*, which chronicles his youth growing up in the swampy terrain of the Missouri

Bootheel, and *Music City: Talent Behind the Stars*, which focuses on the behind-the-scenes talent that is so important to the country and gospel music industries; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whittle has given back to his community by helping fund seventeen Habitat for Humanity homes in Middle Tennessee and lobbying the General Assembly on behalf of StoneCrest Medical Center, which he served as a founding member of its board of directors for six years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whittle is currently engaged in raising funds to build and operate Tennessee Fisher House, which will provide military families with free housing and food while their veteran family members are receiving care at area VA medical centers; and

WHEREAS, Dan Whittle is wholly committed to the people who make good things happen in America, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Dan Whittle for his astute service to the people of Tennessee as a journalist and humanitarian and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.